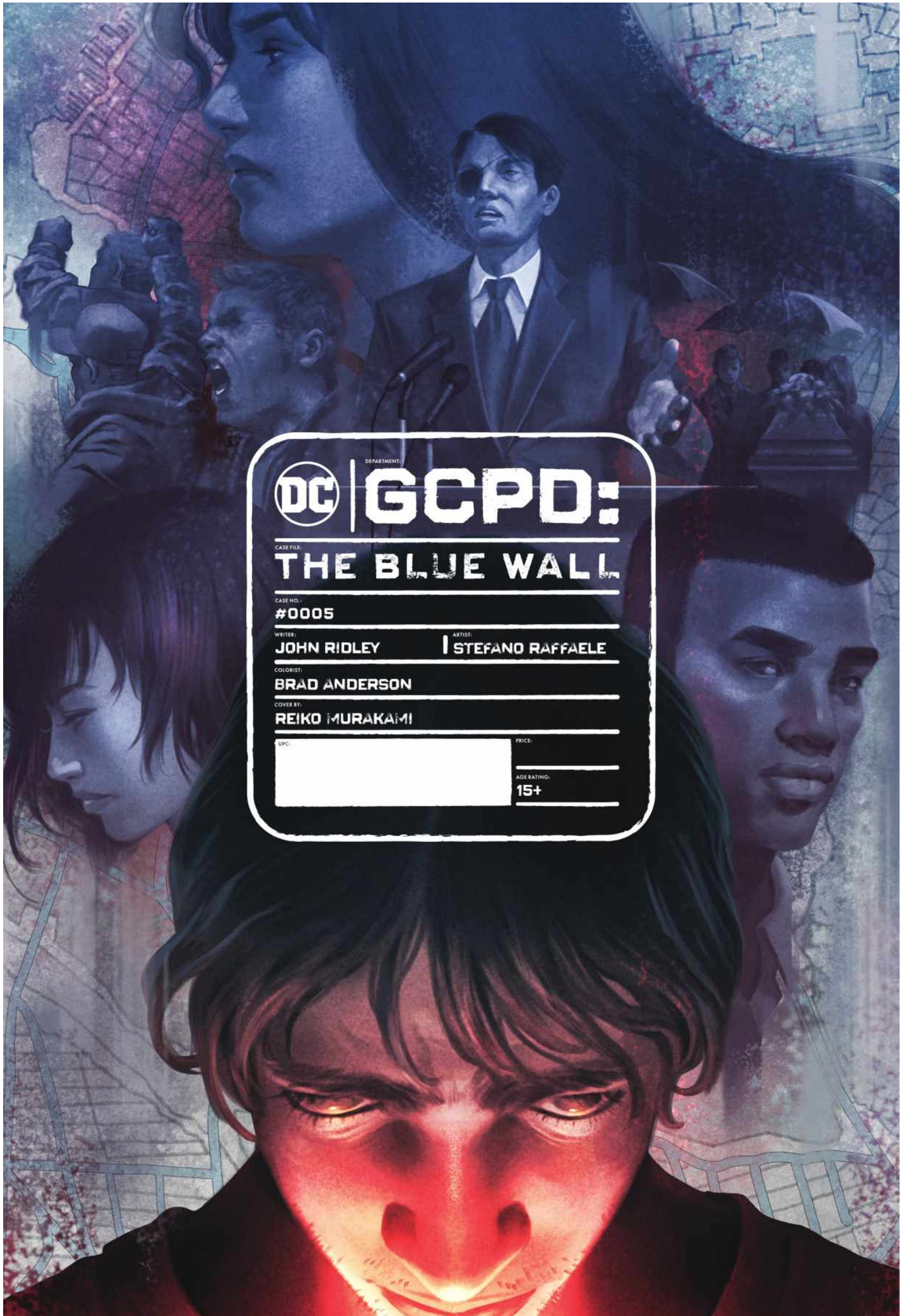
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WRITER:
JOHN RIDLEY
ARTIST:
STEFANO RAFFAELE
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DAVID F. SANDBERG
and others
Art by
FREDDIE E. WILLIAMS II
ANDREW DRILON
ERICA HENDERSON
MIKE NORTON
SCOTT GODLEWSKI
SCOTT KOLINS
JORGE CORONA

AT THIS TIME I'M GOING TO IDENTIFY THE VICTIMS OF LAST NIGHT'S TRAGIC DOUBLE HOMICIDE. THEY WERE BERNARD MONTOYA, M-O-N-T-O-Y-A, AND SONDRA WRIGHT, SPELLED W-R-I-G-H-T.
BOOK V: A CONSTANT RISK OF FIRE
Written by John Ridley
Drawn by Stefano Raffaele
Colored by Brad Anderson
Lettered by Josh Reed
Cover by Reiko Murakami
Variant Cover by Jorge Fornés
Editor: Arianna Turturro
Group Editor: Ben Abernathy
This comic contains language and themes of a sensitive nature dealing with bigotry, abuse, addiction, and mental illness. Readers for whom such content is triggering or hurtful should be advised.
IT'S WITH A HEAVY HEART THAT I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THE VICTIMS WERE THE BROTHER OF POLICE COMMISSIONER RENEE MONTOYA AND HIS FIANCÉE.
I KNOW YOU HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING THE MOTIVATION OF THE KILLINGS.

MY OBJECTIVE IS TO WAKE THE PEOPLE UP TO THE HUMAN CORRUPTION THAT IS THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT. MY TACTIC IS SIMPLE: TO INFLICT MAXIMUM PAIN ON THE HYPOCRITES AND PLASTER SAINTS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE OUR GUARDIANS—
WHAT I CAN TELL YOU--WE'VE IDENTIFIED A PERSON OF INTEREST BASED ON EVIDENCE INTENTIONALLY LEFT AT THE SCENE.
THE GCPD IS A MACHINE THAT, OPPOSITE TO ITS OWN PROPAGANDA, DOESN'T "SERVE AND PROTECT." IT REIGNS. AND IT DESTROYS.
IT'S A THING THAT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE EXCEPT TO FIGHT.
WE BELIEVE THE PERPETRATOR TO BE DANIEL "DANNY" ORTEGA. HE IS...HE WAS AN OFFICER WITH THE GOTHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT.
AT THE MOMENT, ORTEGA REMAINS AT LARGE AND IS CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. BEYOND THAT...
THE IRONY? YOU TRAINED ME TO FIGHT. YOU TRAINED ME TO USE A GUN. YOU TAUGHT ME HOW TO THINK LIKE YOU, AND ACT LIKE YOU...
NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE EVERYTHING I LEARNED, AND USE IT AGAINST YOU.
GOD.
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH THE COMMISSIONER.

...RENEE...
YEAH. COME IN.
JUST FINISHED A PRESSER. WE PUBLICLY I.D.'ED ORTEGA AS A PERSON OF INTEREST.
THAT'S, UH...THAT'S... YEAH.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GET THAT BACK TO--
I'M READING IT.
THE Book OF UNSPEAKABLE TRUTHS
YOU DON'T NEED TO PUT YOURSELF THROUGH IT. THAT'S FOR A FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGIST.
IT'S FOR ME, DAVIS. IT IS LITERALLY FOR ME-- A MANIFESTO THAT RAILS AGAINST THE DEPARTMENT I BUILT, AND THAT I LEAD. WRITTEN WITH A POISON PEN...
AND DELIVERED WITH A BULLET.

THAT MANIFESTO IS MANIC [redacted]. ORTEGA, IF HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING HARASSED...YOU DON'T PULL A DOUBLE HOMICIDE. HE SHOULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING.
HE DID. TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. ME INCLUDED. AND I ACTED LIKE...WASN'T THAT HE HAD IT ROUGH, BUT THAT MAYBE HE SHOULD'VE HAD IT ROUGHER.
DON'T KNOW HOW IT WAS FOR YOU, BUT WHEN I WAS COMING UP, NO MATTER WHAT OTHER OFFICERS THREW AT YOU, IT WAS--SMILE AND NOD, AND GO ALONG TO GET ALONG 'CAUSE GETTING ALONG WAS THE ONLY WAY YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE IT AS A OFFICER.
BUT OFFICERS LIKE ME AND YOU, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MAKE IT DIFFERENT FOR THE NEXT GEN. NO MORE "OLD WHITE BOYS CLUB."
I SUPPOSE THE CLUB MAKES "OLD WHITE BOYS" OUT OF US ALL.
WORSE THAN THAT.
WE *LET* IT HAPPEN TO US.
"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING."

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M THINKING, DETECTIVE.
WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, MR. ORTEGA...IF YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR SON, YOU'RE SELLING HIM OUT.
YOU'RE NOT. WE DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM. WE WANT TO HELP HIM.
HELP HIM? YOU LET THOSE COPS DEGRADE MY SON, DEMEAN HIM...
YOU *LET* THAT HAPPEN.
NOW YOU TELL ME YOU WANT TO HELP HIM?
YOU DON'T WANT TO HELP DANNY.
YOU WANT TO KILL HIM.
I'LL NEVER HELP YOU FIND MY SON.
NEVER.
"HE'S GOT NO LOVE OF THE POLICE."

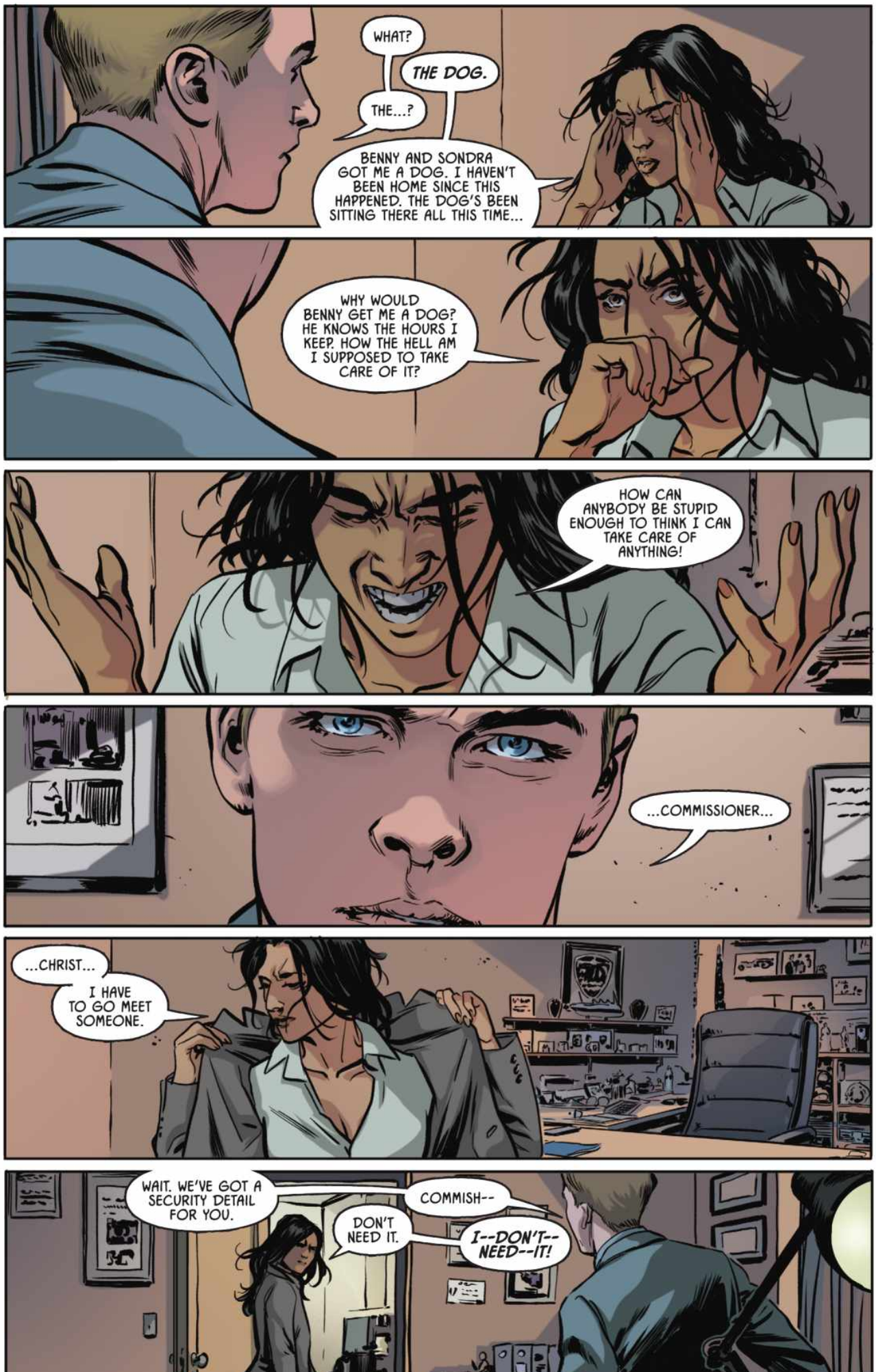
NONE. THINKS WERE NOTHING BUT A GANG. THUGS IN BLUE. IT'S A WONDER HIS SON EVER BECAME A COP.
I DOUBT THERE WERE MANY OFFICERS WHO EVER GAVE MR. ORTEGA A REASON NOT TO DISLIKE THEM.
HE KNOWS MORE THAN HE'S SAYING. THAT'S FOR SURE.
I'D BET ON IT.
YOU THINK HE'S TALKED TO DANNY?

YOU GET HIS CELL PHONE?
COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN RID OF IT?
NO. WASN'T IN HIS PLACE WHEN WE SEARCHED IT.

DON'T THINK SO. WE HAD OFFICERS THERE AS SOON AS WE I.D.'ED DANNY AS THE SHOOTER. WE CAN GET A WARRANT FOR HIS CALL RECORDS, BUT THAT'S GOING TO TAKE A MINUTE.

THAT PHONE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR ON ITS OWN. THE SOONER YOU FIND IT, THE BETTER CHANCE WE HAVE TO FIND ORTEGA.
YES, MA'AM.
AND I WANT EYES ON HIS FATHER 24/7. DO NOT LET HIM--

...


WHAT?
THE DOG.
THE...?
BENNY AND SONDRA GOT ME A DOG. I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME SINCE THIS HAPPENED. THE DOG'S BEEN SITTING THERE ALL THIS TIME...
WHY WOULD BENNY GET ME A DOG? HE KNOWS THE HOURS I KEEP. HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF IT?
HOW CAN ANYBODY BE STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK I CAN TAKE CARE OF ANYTHING!
...COMMISSIONER...
...CHRIST...
I HAVE TO GO MEET SOMEONE.
WAIT. WE'VE GOT A SECURITY DETAIL FOR YOU.
COMMISH--
DON'T NEED IT.
I--DON'T--NEED--IT!

"THIS IS NUTS, YOU KNOW?"
Chuck's DINER
IT'S FREAKING INSANE.
THE CRAP THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT DANNY--THAT HE KILLED THE COMMISH'S BROTHER, HIS FIANCÉE...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID HE WAS A LITTLE... ODD.
NO, I DON'T BELIEVE IT. WE KNEW HIM ALL THROUGH THE ACADEMY. HE WOULD NEVER--
ODD, YEAH, BUT...MURDERING TWO PEOPLE?
THEY'RE SAYING HE LEFT A MANIFESTO AT THE CRIME SCENE.
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT ALL THE WAYS THE PD'S BIASED. ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU AND YOUR PAROLEE, HOW I GOT HUNG OUT AFTER MY O.I.S....
WHAT ABOUT IT? WE GOT SCREWED.
YEAH. WE GOT SCREWED. AND DANNY WAS OUR FRIEND. IF OUR NAMES ARE IN HIS MANIFESTO, PD'S GOING TO BE COMING AT US, ASKING QUESTIONS.
...YEAH...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM?
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO TELL THEM.
IF YOU DID, WOULD YOU?
I WOULD...
...DO WHAT I THOUGHT

I SAW DANNY'S FATHER.
I'M ON THE EVIDENCE COLLECTION UNIT. WE WERE DEPLOYED TO HIS HOUSE AFTER THE SHOOTING.
HE LOOKED...
WAIT, YOU SAW...
HOW...HOW'D HE LOOK?
ANGRY. DEFIANT.
MAYBE A LITTLE PROUD.
OF...?
DANNY. LIKE HE THOUGHT DANNY HAD DONE SOMETHING.
HE DID DO SOMETHING. HE KILLED TWO PEOPLE.
HIS DAD THINKS DANNY WAS DELIVERING PAYBACK.
"PAYBACK"? THAT'S WHAT HE CALLS IT?
WHAT WOULD YOU CALL IT?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL IT.
AND THAT SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME.

MR. AND MRS. WRIGHT...
...RENEE...
I AM SO SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. AND I WOULD LIKE...
...I HOPE YOU WOULD CONSIDER BURYING MY BROTHER AND YOUR DAUGHTER TOGETHER.
THANK YOU.
I'M HERE WHENEVER YOU WANT TO TALK.

THE ACCUSATIONS ARE PRETTY HARSH, LIEUTENANT CARUSO.
WHAT ACCUSATIONS?
IN HIS MANIFESTO ORTEGA CLAIMS YOU HARASSED HIM. HE SAYS YOU INVITED HIM AND HIS FATHER TO A BAR, THEN TURNED THE JOINT INTO A MUSEUM OF INTOLERANCE.
SO, YOU BUY WHAT THE CRAZY KID SHOOTER HAS TO SAY OVER WHAT I'M SELLING?
WHAT ARE YOU "SELLING"?
DID WE GIVE THE KID SOME [redacted]? WHO DOESN'T EAT A LITTLE ON THEIR WAY IN? NOT EVERYBODY DECIDES TO SHOOT A COUPLE OF PEOPLE WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.
YOU ADMIT YOU TARGETED ORTEGA WITH RACIAL EPITHETS.
RACIAL EPI... THERE'S NOTHING WE DID TO THAT KID THAT JUSTIFIES MURDER.
HIM--PEOPLE LIKE HIM...THEY GOT NO BUSINESS BEING ON THE FORCE.
"PEOPLE LIKE HIM"? PEOPLE WHO ARE UNSTABLE, OR PEOPLE WHO ARE BLACK AND BROWN?
I KNOW HOW INTERROGATIONS WORK, DETECTIVE. YOU GOT MORE QUESTIONS, ASK MY PBA REP.
"DO I THINK THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS RACIST?"

IF I THOUGHT IT WAS RACIST, I NEVER WOULD HAVE BECOME AN OFFICER. DO I THINK THERE'S BIAS?
WHAT PART OF LIFE DOESN'T HAVE SOME?
SO, YOU DON'T HAVE A BEEF WITH THE *PD?*
A BEEF...?

ORTEGA WROTE ABOUT YOUR PAROLEE GETTING KILLED. YOU BLAMING THE DEPARTMENT FOR IT.
THE BOOK OF UNDENIABLE TRUTHS

MY PAROLEE WAS TRYING TO LIVE STRAIGHT. LIFE DOESN'T MAKE THAT EASY, AND WE COULD'VE DONE BETTER BY HIM. I GOT NO PROBLEM SAYING THAT.

AND WHILE YOU WERE RANTING TO ORTEGA--
I WASN'T "RANTING."
YOU CAN'T SEE HE'S BEING... RADICALIZED?

JUST SO I'M UNDERSTANDING YOU, ME TALKING ABOUT THE SYSTEM BEING MESSED UP, THAT'S "RADICALIZING." BUT YOUR OFFICERS BEING BIGOTS, THAT'S JUST BUSINESS AS USUAL?

DON'T TRY TO TWIST THINGS ON ME.

I'M NOT TRYING TO TWIST THINGS, MA'AM. I AM SO SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT DANNY WAS A GOOD COP. HE WAS PART OF THE TEAM THAT TOOK DOWN TWO-FACE'S OLD CREW AT THE FOXTECH HEIST.
WHAT I'M SAYING... HE DIDN'T JUST SNAP. THINGS HAPPENED TO DANNY...AND WE DID NOTHING.
I KNOW YOU FAULT ME FOR THE WAY THE DEPARTMENT TREATED YOU PUBLICLY...
I DON'T FAULT YOU. IF ANYTHING I FEEL LIKE I LET YOU DOWN.
...IN A LOT OF WAYS I LET DANNY DOWN.
LET HIM DOWN HOW?
IF I HAD BEEN A BETTER OFFICER, IF I HAD ACTUALLY BEEN A HERO INSTEAD OF FAKING LIKE ONE...
DANNY KNOWS HOW HARD IT IS TO HAVE TO REPRESENT FOR YOUR WHOLE RACE. HE TOOK ALL MY PUBLIC SHAMING VERY PERSONALLY.
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WAS JUST MORE CRAP ON TOP OF WHATEVER IT WAS THAT TURNED DANNY.
SO... YEAH. I'M MORE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS THAN YOU'LL KNOW, 'CAUSE I'M PART OF IT.
MAY I GO?
...YEAH...

SO, YOU'LL TRY TO FIND A HOME FOR HIM?
WE'LL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN FOR SIX WEEKS.
AFTER THAT WE HAVE TO PUT THEM DOWN. WE DON'T...WE JUST DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
AFTER THAT?
HOW MANY ANIMALS DO YOU HAVE NOW THAT ARE COMING UP ON THEIR SIX-WEEK MARK?
48.
I CAN'T DO THIS.
...BENNY, I CAN'T DO IT.
...I MISS YOU SO [redacted] MUCH...
"WHAT'D THE DETECTIVE WANT TO KNOW?"

THEY WANTED TO KNOW WAS I RESPONSIBLE FOR ORTEGA GOING OFF THE RAILS.
"RESPONSIBLE"?
'CAUSE WE HAZED HIM A LITTLE. KID'S A SNOWFLAKE.
GCPD
NO [redacted]. HE CAN'T HANDLE IT, HE NEVER SHOULD'VE COME TO THIS COUNT--
--TREEEEEEEE--
..THE [redacted]...
...CAN'T... YOU'RE A COP.
NOT ANYMORE. NOW...
I'M A SOLDIER.
BAM
"FOUR OFFICERS DEAD."

CARUSO, ORTEGA'S DIRECT C.O. WAS KILLED EXECUTION-STYLE.
AND ORTEGA?
GOT AWAY CLEAN. HE'S A POLICE OFFICER. HE KNOWS HOW WE THINK, HE KNOWS HOW TO FIGHT. AND HE KNOWS HOW TO AVOID BEING SEEN.
THE MEDIA ARE LOOKING FOR A STATEMENT.
I'M SURE THEY ARE.
NOT JUST A STATEMENT ON THESE SLAYINGS.
THERE ARE RUMORS STARTING TO SPREAD ABOUT ORTEGA'S MANIFESTO BEING FOUND AT THE SCENE OF YOUR BROTHER'S MURDER.
RENEE... WE CAN'T SPEAK ON THAT. AS INSANE AS IT READS, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO THINK ORTEGA IS LIKE SOME KIND OF WHISTLEBLOWING SJW VIGILANTE.
AND THIS CITY LOVES VIGILANTES.
MAYBE THAT'S OUR FAULT, TOO.
WHEN WE DON'T ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES, THEY THINK WE DON'T SEE THEM AS PEOPLE...
YOU SURPRISED THEY BELIEVE IN SOMETHING BESIDES THE LAW?
RENEE... YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT. YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF WAY TOO HARD. YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE...THINKING CLEARLY.
YOU REALLY SHOULD GO HOME AND GET SOME REST.

FOUR OFFICERS. DEAD. DANNY'S THE ONE WHO SHOT THEM.
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
THEY'RE NOT JUST SAYING IT. THERE'S SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE. YOU KNOW HE DID IT.
WHAT I KNOW IS DANNY WAS OUR FRIEND. AND WHATEVER'S GOING ON, WE'VE GOTTA--
HEY!
...[redacted]...
ERIC... ERIC?
...DANNY... WHAT THE HELL, MAN?
NOT GONNA HURT YOU.
YOU GOT A GUN IN MY [redacted] FACE.
...DID YOU...DID YOU KILL ALL THOSE PEOPLE?
YEAH.
...[redacted]...

COME WITH.
...WHY...
SO WE CAN TAKE APART THE MACHINE.
..."THE MACHINE"...?
...DANNY... YOU NEED HELP.
I NEED HELP? I'M DOING THIS [redacted] *FOR YOU,* BUT *I* NEED HELP?
DANNY... PLEASE...
YOU'RE LIKE THE REST OF THEM. I SHOULD JUST...
ERIC, YOU THERE?
ERIC? ERIC, WHAT'S GOING ON...?
ERIC, SAY SOMETHING!

SAM...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHAT HAPPENED?
GOTTA CALL YOU BACK.
ERIC, WAIT--
9-1-1, WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?
...I... UHHH...
HELLO...? HELLO?
THE SHOOTER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, DANNY ORTEGA, I SAW HIM IN TRICORNER. HE'S DRIVING A RED PICKUP TRUCK.
HE'S ARMED.
...[redacted]...

POUR ME A SHOT. I DON'T CARE WHAT.
...I CAN'T... YOU TOLD ME IF YOU EVER CAME IN HERE ASKING FOR A DRINK I SHOULDN'T SERVE YOU.
I DON'T CARE WHAT I SAID. POUR ME A DRINK.
RENEE...
WHY DON'T I CALL SOMEBODY?
POUR ME A DRINK.
POUR ME THE DAMN DRINK!
RENEE...MAY I HAVE A MOMENT OF YOUR TIME?

JUST A MOMENT.
YOU BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I MAKE BOTH SIDES OF YOUR FACE LOOK LIKE--
SAY THE WORD, AND HE'S DEAD.
WHAT?
SAY THE WORD, AND THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR BROTHER AND HIS FIANCÉE IS DEAD. NO TOSS OF A COIN NECESSARY.
ALL I NEED TO KNOW FROM YOU: DO YOU WANT IT TO HAPPEN QUICKLY, OR WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO STRETCH ON FOR WEEKS?
WHY WOULD YOU DO IT?
IF I DON'T, YOU WILL. AS BAD AS I WRONGED YOU, THIS IS HOW I MAKE IT RIGHT.
NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM. I WILL TAKE IT TO MY GRAVE. SAME AS HE'LL TAKE IT TO HIS.
WHICH IS THIS--A TRICK, OR A TEST?
IT'S AN OFFER. BENNY WAS GOOD TO ME WHEN MOST PEOPLE JUST SEE ME AS A MONSTER.
AND AS [redacted] UP AS MY OFFER IS...
...IT'S THE ONLY WAY I KNOW TO SHOW HOW MUCH I CARE ABOUT YOU.

...I CAN'T LET YOU DO IT, HARVEY. IF YOU REALLY ARE REFORMED, IF YOU REALLY ARE A CHANGED MAN... KEEP AT IT.
'CAUSE IF ONE OF US HAS TO BE A MONSTER, IT'S GOTTA BE ME.
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, RENEE.
...I'M SORRY, BENNY.

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

TEEN TITANS ROBIN

AN INTERVIEW WITH KAMI GARCIA

Writer Kami Garcia and artist Gabriel Picolo have captivated fans new and old with their acclaimed, *New York Times* bestselling *Teen Titans* series of young adult graphic novelsas they reinvent beloved DC heroes for modern audiences while staying true to what makes them great. In their fourth collaboration, *Teen Titans: Robin*, both Damian Wayne and Dick Grayson are in the spotlight, searching for the truth while on the run from Slade Wilson and H.I.V.E.

Dick Grayson is one of DC's most beloved characters—and with good reason! How would you describe your take on the character?

Gabriel and I stuck close to canon when it came to Dick. There's something honest and vulnerable about Dick that makes him instantly relatable. His backstory in canon also worked well with the found-family aspect of our *Teen Titans* books.

But as a writer, I also wanted to bring something new to the character, which turned out to be Dick's relationship with Damian. In our take, Dick is Bruce's adopted son, and he and Bruce only recently learned about Damian's existence, so now Dick has a younger brother—one he wants to get to know.

What aspects of Damian Wayne—and his relationship with Dick—were you eager to explore in this book?

I've always loved Damian Wayne. He's my favorite Robin. He has such an abrasive personality, but deep down he just wants to be accepted. I wanted to see how those opposing forces would play out in a sibling relationship.

In *Robin*, Damian wants acceptance from Bruce, the father he never knew, but Dick is Bruce's Robin, his literal sidekick, and Damian feels replaced. The emotional stakes are too high for him to immediately accept Dick as a brother.

This is now your fourth full-length collaboration with Gabriel Picolo. What were you most excited to see from him in this volume?

Robin is the first book where we really get to see the teens become a group, and I was really excited to see Gabriel draw them together as a unit.

What role do Beast Boy and Raven play in *Teen Titans: Robin*?

Raven and Beast Boy are the heart of our series. In *Robin*, we get to see Beast Boy in the role of the voice of reason with Damian, which is fun. But there's also a lot of weight to Raven and Beast Boy in this book. They experienced trauma in *Beast Boy Loves Raven*, and we see the effects of that.

DON'T MISS *TEEN TITANS: ROBIN*, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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